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Titolo	The pale god [[electronic resource]] : Israeli secularism and Spinoza's philosophy of culture / / Gideon Katz ; translated by Miriam Ron and Jacky Feldman
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Collana	Israel : society, culture and history
Altri autori (Persone)	RonMiriam FeldmanJacky
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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Front matter -- Contents -- Introduction -- Chapter 1: Three Options for Secularism in Israel -- Chapter 2: Why Spinoza? -- Chapter 3: Imagination and the Masses: An Outline of the Object of Politics -- Chapter 4: Political Secularism -- Chapter 5: The Role of the Philosopher in His Society in Times of Secularization -- Chapter 6: Traditionalism as an Optional Form of Secularism in Israel -- Conclusion -- Bibliography -- Index
Sommario/riassunto	The Pale God examines the relationship between secularism and religious tradition. It begins with a description of the secular options as expressed by Israeli intellectuals, and describes how these options have led to a dead end. A new option must be sought, and one of the key sources for this option is the works of Spinoza. The author explains that unlike Nietzsche, who discussed "the death of God," Spinoza tried to undermine the authority of religious virtuosos and establish the image of a rational "Pale God." Such changes could channel religious tradition to the basic principles of secular political rule. The author demonstrates that the secular option is inherent in Israeli society, fits the type of secularism that Zionism instilled in the Jewish people, and complements the traditional trends deeply rooted in that society.

